

**REMARKS.**

By this Preliminary Amendment, original claims 1-8 have been canceled; original non-elected claims 9 – 15 have been retained. Further, the specification has been amended and new claims 16-19 have been added. The amendments to the specification are essentially the same amendments that were proposed in a Supplemental Amendment in the parent application.

Also simultaneously filed are three divisional applications with respect to parent U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/365,417, filed February 13, 2003. Those three simultaneously filed divisional applications of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/365,417 bear attorney docket numbers 4059-19, 4059- 21, and 4059- 22.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite for the record the prior art references cited in the parent application(s). Appropriate PTO-1449 forms are attached in this regard. In addition, Applicants request consideration and citation of the following further references (for which an appropriate PTO-1449 form is also presented): US Patent 6,510,912 and US 2002/0100631.

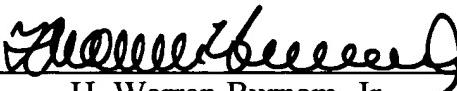
Applicants respectfully request prompt and favorable consideration of the application. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

MORII et al  
Appl. No. to be assigned

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:



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